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Letter dated 9 July 2001 from the Permanent Representative of Mali to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

I have the honour to transmit herewith the text of the press release issued in Lusaka, on 6 July 2001, by the Heads of State and Government of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) concerning the renewal of the moratorium on the import, export and manufacture of light weapons for a second three-year period to take effect from 5 July 2001.

I should be grateful if you would have the text of this letter and its annex circulated as a Security Council document.

(*Signed*) Moctar **Ouane**
Permanent Representative of Mali to the United Nations

01-45845 (E) 160701 160701

Annex to the letter dated 9 July 2001 from the Permanent Representative of Mali to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

The Heads of State and Government of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) decided to renew the moratorium on the import, export and manufacture of light weapons for a second three-year period with effect from 5 July 2001.

The aim of the moratorium, which was declared on 31 October 1998 in Abuja, is to reduce the proliferation and circulation of light weapons in West Africa.

To achieve that objective, the member States of ECOWAS adopted a plan of action and code of conduct in March 1999. The plan is based on the following main elements: establishment of a culture of peace; establishment of national committees; destruction of arms surpluses in member States; training of security personnel; dialogue with manufacturers of light weapons; and the establishment of a databank and register of light weapons in circulation in West Africa. These arms fuel conflicts in the subregion and contribute to the use of child soldiers. It is fortunate that the Heads of State and Government have declared this moratorium, the first of its kind in the world.